| 13 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ANALYSIS | Page 1 of 3 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Division of Forensic Science | Amendment No.: |
| TOXICOLOGY TRAINING MANUAL | Effective Date: 26-March-2004 |

13 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ANALYSIS

13.1 Objectives

- 13.1.1 Display a working knowledge of alcoholic beverages (history, terminology, manufacturing processes, chemical formulations and compositions of various beverages).
- 13.1.2 Demonstrate proficiency in organoleptic evaluations of beverages (clarity, color, bouquet and flavor).
- 13.1.3 Demonstrate proficiency in the analysis of beverages for alcohol content and trace congeners.
- 13.1.4 Demonstrate proficiency in the analysis of lead content using flame atomic absorption spectroscopy.
- 13.1.5 Demonstrate proficiency in wet chemical techniques applied to the analysis of alcoholic beverages (evaporated solids, total acids, specific gravity and volumetric distillations).
- 13.1.6 Interpret findings in order to identify types and classes of alcoholic beverages.

13.2 Estimated Time: Four Months

13.3 Methods of Instructions

- 13.3.1 Lectures
 - 13.3.1.1 Manufacturing of alcoholic beverages
 - 13.3.1.2 Physical make up of alcoholic beverages
 - 13.3.1.3 Chemical formulations and compositions of alcoholic beverages
 - 13.3.1.4 Principles of direct injection GC
 - 13.3.1.5 Principles of wet chemical techniques
 - 13.3.1.6 Principles of atomic absorption spectroscopy
- 13.3.2 Literature Review
 - 13.3.2.1 Amerine, M. Laboratory Procedures for Enologists. UC Davis, 1967.
 - 13.3.2.2 Barnett, J.H. and J.R. Einsman. *Occurrence and Distribution of Congeners in Distilled Alcohol Spirits*. J Assoc of Official Analytical Chemists Vol 60, 1977.
 - 13.3.2.3 Lange, N.A. Lange's Handbook of Chemistry. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1967.
 - 13.3.2.4 Lembeck, H. Grossman's Guide to Wine, Beers and Spirits. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983.
 - 13.3.2.5 Lichine, A. Alexis Lichine's Encyclopedia of Wines and Spirits. New York: Alfred Knopf, Inc., 1983.
 - 13.3.2.6 Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists. 15th Ed., 1990.
 - 13.3.2.7 Slavin, M. Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1978.
- 13.3.3 Demonstration

| 13 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ANALYSIS | Page 2 of 3 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Division of Forensic Science | Amendment No.: |
| TOXICOLOGY TRAINING MANUAL | Effective Date: 26-March-2004 |

13.3.3.1 Alcoholic beverage analyses will be observed from beginning to end and notes will be taken by the Trainee.

13.3.4 Laboratory Exercises

- 13.3.4.1 Perform all of the following analyses on 20 different alcoholic beverages
- 13.1.1.1.1 Organoleptic evaluation: clarity, color, bouquet and flavor
- 13.1.1.1.1 Ethanol content by headspace GC
- 13.1.1.1.1 Congener distribution by direct injection GC
- 13.1.1.1.1 Lead content by atomic absorption spectroscopy
- 13.1.1.1.1 Evaporated solids
- 13.1.1.1.1 Total acids
- 13.1.1.1.1 Specific gravity

13.4 Evaluation:

- 13.4.1 Written Examination
 - 13.4.1.1 This will be administered as a "take home" exam.
- 13.4.2 Laboratory Competency Testing
 - 13.4.2.1 A series of at least 20 different alcoholic beverages will be presented to the Trainee for a routine alcoholic beverage determination. Trainee must assess what tests to perform based on organoleptic evaluation, and then must perform various analyses. Quantitative results must agree within 5% of the previously determined result and qualitative results must agree descriptively (e.g. bouquet, unaged, illegally distilled).

13.5 Examination Questions

- 13.5.1 Explain when calibration or recalibration of the headspace GC is necessary. How is recalibration accomplished?
- 13.5.2 What is NIST? Why is it important?
- 13.5.3 Describe the ranges of alcohol content for the following alcoholic beverages: table wines, fortified wines, light beer, premium beer, malt liquors, special stouts, and distilled spirits.
- 13.5.4 What are ethanolic congeners?
- 13.5.5 What are the congeners known as fusel oils?
- 13.5.6 What does the ratio of fusel oils indicate in distilled spirits?
- 13.5.7 What are the key characteristics that distinguish legally distilled vs illegally distilled spirits?

| 13 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ANALYSIS | Page 3 of 3 |
|---|---|
| Division of Forensic Science | Amendment No.: |
| TOXICOLOGY TRAINING MANUAL | Effective Date: 26-March-200 |
| 13.5.8 What acids are found in alcoholic beverages and what are the predo | ominant acids in distilled spirits and table wine |
| 13.5.9 What is proof? | |
| 13.5.10 How does straight bourbon whiskey obtain its amber color? | |
| 13.5.11 How does blended whiskey obtain its amber color? | |
| 13.5.12 What is fermentation? | |
| 13.5.13 What is mash? | |
| 13.5.14 What is distillation? | |
| 13.5.15 What are distilled spirits? | |
| 13.5.16 Define new and raw. | |
| 13.5.17 What is the legal limit for lead in distilled alcoholic spirits? What l | lead level would be considered hazardous? |
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